

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-8 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been added or withdrawn.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Claim Objections

The claims have been amended as required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Covert et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,117) in view of Powell ("HTML: The Complete Reference"). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Covert et al in view of Ephrath et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,041,967). Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Covert et al in view of Ephrath et al and further in view of JP-A-10-143359. These rejections are traversed as follows.

As admitted by the Examiner on page 5, lines 3-11 of the Office Action, "Covert does not explicitly disclose 'describing in table form the processing items in

the screen transition process, said screen transition process changing current image to the next one at the end of display of each individual image content of said series of image contents', 'sequentially reading the processing items described in table form and carrying out said transition process of said series of image contents' or 'wherein said table form includes information indicating the contents of a transaction and information indicating the status of a content of a transaction and information regarding a following content subsequent to the completion of a previous content'."

In order to supply this deficiency in Covert et al the Examiner relies upon Figs. 4 and 5 and column 5, lines 37-47 of Ephrath et al. Applicants submit that such reliance is misplaced.

Fig. 4 of Ephrath et al shows a graphical representation of a storage table which can be used to dynamically generate the menu system of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 shows a graphical representation of a multilevel, hierarchical menu system (see column 2, lines 53-60). Fig. 5 illustrates a flow chart for utilization of the multilevel, hierarchical menu system (see column 2, lines 61-64). At column 5, lines 36-47, Ephrath et al disclose that by using the MENU entry as a key, all menu items on that menu can be selected from the table of Fig. 4 for display. The actual text displayed is contained in the first field of Fig. 4, shown as column 51. Finally, the selection of any menu entry triggers the associated action, identified in column 52 of Fig. 4. This action comprises either the display of a lower level menu, or the execution of an identified process.

It can be clearly seen from the MENU table in Fig. 4 that a particular display is uniquely identified as corresponding to an item text. For example, "DISPLAY B-3" is uniquely identified as corresponding to item text "TEXT FOR ENTRY 3 IN MENU A-1". Therefore, according to Ephrath et al, it is necessary to prepare the next screen by considering each item text so as not to miss possible transitional destinations.

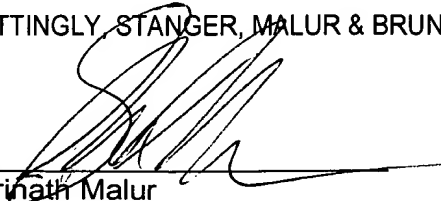
On the other hand, according to the present invention, the events that are generated correspond to contents such as END OF PROCESS and RESTART (604) and are defined such that the transition destination screen is described by the event (see Fig. 6). Therefore, it is not necessary to pay attention to the entirety of the flow as in Fig. 3 of Ephrath et al and there is no need to worry about transition destination screens concerned with events that do not occur.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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